

CLASSIFICATION

SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. 25X1A

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY

East Germany/USSR

DATE DISTR. 18 September 1953

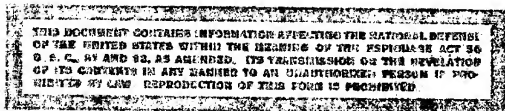
SUBJECT

Release of German Prisoners of War

NO. OF PAGES

PLACE
ACQUIRED

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NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1A

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SOURCE

25X1A

1. Preparations are under way to bring about, by Communist endeavors, the release of German PWs still retained in the USSR. In connection with these endeavors, a well known former KP functionary, who had temporarily headed the Main Department for Propaganda at the "Hauptausschuss fuer Volkabefragung" (Central Committee for a Plebiscite) and who had also been the secretary of the East German Peace Committee, was summoned to Karlshorst for an interview with Semenov in mid-June 1953. The former KP functionary involved, who was in close connection with source's informant while being assigned to special missions, was in Berlin from 20 through 26 June. He was ordered by Semenov to prepare the formation of a delegation composed of former German officers, who were to be received by the Russians before the West German elections.
2. After returning from Berlin, the former KP functionary set to work to find qualified men for this delegation. He succeeded in winning an ex-admiral as chief of the delegation. Source's informant learned from him that all PWs registered by the German Red Cross and still in correspondence with their next of kin would be discharged. A number of 25,000 men or even more was mentioned in this connection. Source's informant furthermore stated that the former KP functionary would go to Karlshorst on 12 July to discuss further details of the plan with Semenov.

25X1A

SECRET